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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 09/616,330
Filing Date: July 15, 2000
Appellant(s): STANTON ET AL.

Mary Jo Bertani, Reg. No. 42,321
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 15 August 2005 appealing from the Office action

mailed 16 March 2005.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

Kumar et al.	6,542,515	04-2003
Ankireddipally et al.	6,772,216	8-2004
Young	6,560,606	05-2003

Box et al., "Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) 1.1", May 2000

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1.   Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et

al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,542,515), hereinafter referred to as Kumar, in view of Box et al.

(Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) 1.1; May 2000).

2.   Regarding claim 13, Kumar discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Kumar

disclosed a messaging platform for a component-based software system, the platform

comprising: a connection assembler for at least one of creating, managing and manipulating a

first messaging platform connection', a protocol management framework for implementation of a

predetermined transport protocol over the first connection, a schema generator for responsive to

a request for service received over a second messaging platform connection, creating a document

according to a predetermined format, the document containing information to be provided to

another system over the first connection, and a translation component for encoding a document

in the predetermined format into a second encoded object that can be understood and used by the

another system, the second encoded object being encoded according to an encoding protocol

different from the default encoding protocol (Figures 2-3 and 7-8, Col. 4, lines 4-19, Col. 5, lines

33-38, Col. 7, line 43-Col. 8, line 15, Col. 9, lines 4-24, Col. 11, lines 29-51, Col. 14, lines 28-

50, Col. 15, lines 21-35, Col.17, lines 62-17). However, Kumar did not expressly teach an encoding component for converting a document in the predetermined format into a first encoded object that can be understood and used by another system, the first encoded object being encoded according to a default encoding protocol.

3.   Kumar suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the messaging platform with the encoding component for converting a document in the predetermined format into a first encoded object that can be understood and used by the another system, the first encoded object being encoded according to a default encoding protocol (Col. 3, lines 53-63, Col. 7, lines 43-58, Col. 14, lines 28-50).

4.   Box disclosed an encoding component for converting a document in the predetermined format into a first encoded object that can be understood and used by another system, the first encoded object being encoded according to a default encoding protocol (Abstract, Section 1. Introduction, Section 3. Relation to XML, Section 5. SOAP Encoding, Section 6. Using SOAP in HTTP).

5.   Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the messaging platform of Kumar with the teachings of Box in order to exchange information in a decentralized, distributed environment (Box, Abstract) since default protocol such as SOAP defines a simple mechanism for expressing application semantics by providing a modular packaging model and encoding mechanisms for encoding data within modules (Box, Section 1. Introduction).

6.   Regarding claim 14, Kumar disclosed a platform wherein the information is provided by

a service component', and the request for service is in a form not understandable by the service

component (Abstract, Col. 14, lines 28-50, Col. 17, line 62-Col. 18, line 16).

7.   Regarding claim 15, Kumar and Box disclosed a platform wherein the service request is

in a platform and application-independent format (Kumar, Col. 5, lines 33- 38, Box; Abstract).

8.   Regarding claim 16, Kumar and Box disclosed a platform wherein the service request is

in an Extensible Markup Language format (Kumar, Figures 7-8, Col. 7, lines 43-58, Col. 14,

lines 28-50, Box, Section 1. Introduction, Section 3. Relation to XML).

9.   Regarding claim 17, Kumar disclosed a platform further comprising a lookup service

component for determining a service component to handle the service request (Abstract, Figures

2-3 and 7-8, Col. 4, lines 4-19, Col. 7, lines 43-58, Col. 15, lines 21-35).

10.   Regarding claim 18, Kumar disclosed a platform wherein the lookup service determines

the service component to handle the service request based on information associated with the

service component (Abstract, Figures 2-3 and 7-8, Col. 4, lines 4-19, Col. 7, lines 43-58, Col. 15,

lines 21-35, Col. 17, line 62-Col. 18, line 16).

11.   Regarding claim 19, Kumar and Box disclosed a platform wherein the protocol

management framework implements HUP for transport (Kumar, Col. 14, lines 28-50, Col. 15

lines 21-35, Box, Abstract, Section 6. Using SOAP in HUP).

12.   Regarding claim 20, Box disclosed a platform wherein the default protocol is SOAP

(Abstract, Section 1. Introduction, Section 5. SOAP Encoding, Section 6. Using SOAP in HUP).

13.   Regarding claim 21, Box disclosed a platform wherein an identifier of the encoding

object is included in a Universal Resource Locator (URL) (URI), and the URL (URI) is sent to

the second messaging platform in combination with the document in the predetermined format

(page 8 section 4.2 SOAP Header subsection 1, page 8-9 section 4.2.1 Use of Header Attributes,

4.2.2 SOAP actor Attribute).

14.   Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of

Kumar and Box, claims 13-21 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15.   Claims 22-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ankireddipally et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,772,216), hereinafter referred to as

Ankireddipally, in view of Young (U.S. Patent Number 6,560.606).

16.   Regarding claim 22, Ankireddipally disclosed the invention substantially as claimed.

Ankireddipally discloses an apparatus comprising: logic instructions operable to receive a

service request from a sender, wherein the service request invokes a service component and

provides parameters required by the service component (Figures 1-2, column 11 lines 24-10,

column 18 lines 9-23), determine whether the service component invoked by the service request

is available (column 14 lines 13-25), determine the parameters in the service request that are

required by the service component (Figures 2-3, column 14 lines 43-67), create a request

document that includes the parameters required by the service component based on at least some

of the parameters in the service request (column 15 lines 12-32), create an object upon receipt of

the service request (Abstract, Figure 1 , column 15 lines 12-32)., and transmit the object and the

request document to a system hosting the service component (column 15 lines 12-32, column 18

lines 10-23). However, Ankireddipally did not expressly teach an apparatus having logic

instructions operable to create an encoder object upon receipt of the service request wherein the

encoder object identifies a handler that translates the request document to a document format required by the service component, and transmit the encoder object and the request document to a system hosting the service component.

17.   Ankireddipally suggested exploration of art and/or provided a reason to modify the apparatus of Ankireddipally with the encoder object feature (column 17 lines 23-30, column 18 lines 9-23, column 26 lines 9-17).

18.   Young disclosed an apparatus having logic instructions operable to create an encoder object upon receipt of the service request wherein the encoder object identifies a handler that translates the request document to a document format required by the service component, and transmit the encoder object and the request document to a system hosting the service component (Figure IB, column 6 lines 46-67).

19.   Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Ankireddipally with the teachings of Young to include the encoder object feature in order to support error detection and/or authentication (Young, column 6 lines 46-61).

20.   Regarding claim 23, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic instruction operable to invoke the service component using the second document, receive a response from the service component in the document format required by the service component, convert the response to a response message in a platform-independent format, provide the response message to a message platform; convert the response message to a format required by the sender (Abstract, column 14 line 43-column 15 line 11).

21.   Regarding claim 24, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus wherein the encoding object

is included in a Universal Resource Locator (URL) (column 17 lines 23-30, column 20 line 42-

column 21 line 14).

22.   Regarding claim 25, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic

instructions operable to create a connection information file that identifies an external host on

which the service component resides (column 14 lines 14-25, column 20 lines 28-48).

23.   Regarding claim 26, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus wherein the connection

information file further identifies a pod on which the service component resides (column 13 lines

30-48).

24.   Regarding claim 27, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus wherein the connection

information file further identifies a transport mode and a handler that is operable to create the

second document (column 13 lines 49-60, column 14 lines 53-64, column 15 lines 12-24).

25.   Regarding claim 28, Ankireddipally and Young disclosed an apparatus further

comprising: logic instructions operable to generate a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to identify

and store address of external host computers on which service components that can be invoked

by the sender reside (Ankireddipally, Figure 1, column 2 lines 23-44, column 14 lines 13-25,

Young, column 3 lines 49-63).

26.   Regarding claim 29, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic

instructions operable to generate a repository of information regarding the service component,

wherein the repository includes at least one of the group consisting of an identifier, a

classification dependencies and version of the service component (column 15 line 59-column 16

line 10, column 16 lines 50-67).

Regarding claim 30, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus wherein the repository includes a

component data section and a shared data section, and the shared data section includes

information that can be shared between service components and changed dynamically at runtime

(column 6 lines 46-55, column 7 lines 1-17, column 15 lines 24-36).

27.   Regarding claim 31, Young disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic instructions

operable to create a catalog of components in the repository, wherein the catalog can be accessed

by authorized users (column 6 lines 46-61).

28.   Regarding claim 32, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic

instructions operable to generate instructions to specify remote interfaces and provide an

interface for writing remote objects (column 5 lines 64-column 6 lines 14, column 14 lines 53-

67).

29.   Regarding claim 33, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic

instructions operable to map relationships between objects in the service components (column 12

line 64-column 13 line 6).

30.   Regarding claim 34, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising:

logic instructions operable to implement a transaction protocol to coordinate transactions from

disparate systems communicated via different protocols (column 15 lines 44-57, column 20 line

52-column 21 line 13).

31.   Regarding claim 35, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus further comprising: logic

instructions operable to select an alternate service component when the service component

invoked by the service request is not available (column 14 lines 13-25).

32.   Regarding claim 36, Ankireddipally disclosed an apparatus wherein further comprising:

logic instructions operable to select the alternate servile component based on at least one factor

of the group consisting oft queue depth, average compute time, and network latency (column 14

lines 13-25, column 18 lines 50-57).

33.   Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by the combination of

Ankireddipally and Young, claims 22-36 are rejected.

(10) Response to Argument

The applicant argued in substance that:

Issue 1), Appellant argues on pages 4, that there would be no reasonable expectation of success

in combining the teachings of Kumar and Box as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant further

argues that Box describes a SOAP message that is an XML document that consists of a

mandatory SOAP envelope, an optional SOAP Header, and a mandatory SOAP Body. And

notably a SOAP message must not contain a Document Type Declaration as indicated in section

3 of the SOAP specification.

As to Issue 1), Applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of

applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., Document

Type Declaration (DTD)) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are

interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the

claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Furthermore,

for the reasons detailed in the following paragraph, it is the examiner's position that although

Box did disclose that "A SOAP message MUST NOT contain a Document Type Declaration"

(page 3 section 3), Box also disclosed with the exception of the SOAP misunderstand attribute

and the SOAP actor attribute, it is generally permissible to have attributes and their values appear

in XML instances or alternatively in schemas, with equal effect. That is, declaration in a DTD or

schema with a default or fixed value is semantically equivalent to appearance in an instance"

(page 6 section 3. Relation to XML). Thus, applicant's argument that there would be no

reasonable expectation of success in combining the teachings of Kumar and Box is moot in view

of Box's teachings.

Issue 2), Appellant argues that nothing in Ankireddipally or Young, alone or in combination,

discloses or suggest an encoder object that identifies a handler that translates the request

document to a document format required b the service component, or transmits the encoder

object and the request document to a system hosting the service component.

As to Issue 2), for the reasons detailed in the following paragraph, it is the examiner's

position that Ankireddipally-Young does in fact teach as well as suggest an encoder object that

identifies a handler that translates the request document to a document format required b the

service component, or transmits the encoder object and the request document to a system hosting

the service component (Young teaches a user interface (e.g., application programming interface)

for interfacing reformatting data from a metering module. Furthermore, Young teaches an object

generator that generates session objects containing properties having different values

representing the usage data as well as teaching a transmission module and an encoder. Also,

within the enabling portions Young teaches the converting of object contents extracted by the

parser into factory session objects.), [See Young, Figure 1B, abstract, Col. 6, lines 46-67, Col. 7,

lines 52-62]. Also, Ankireddipally also provides motivation to combine with Young by utilizing

a transportation module that is based on TCP/IP. Because the application interaction protocol

includes guaranteed delivery semantics (see the Acknowledge message type described below),

transportation module may be implemented on top of SMTP or FTP as well. Cooperating

applications (CXCs) based on different transportation mechanisms may also be implemented by

developing a bridge that translates messages from one protocol to another. FIG. 18 illustrates this

concept of protocol translation. Commerce exchange components 34 and 20 reside on a network

that utilizes TCP/IP as its transport mechanism, while commerce exchange component 21 resides

on a network that utilizes SMTP as its transport mechanism. Commerce exchange component 21

includes transportation/communication module 51 for handling messages in SMTP format.

Communication service 12 of CX server 10 may be implemented with bridge mechanism 57 for

translating messages between TCP/IP and SMTP message formats [see Ankireddipally, Col. 15,

lines 39-57]. Thus it is clear that in combination both references teach the argued limitations.
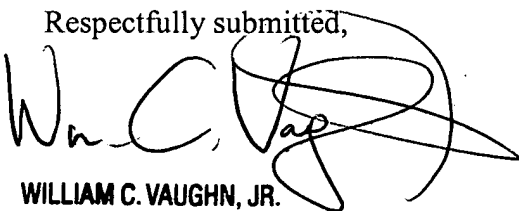
Response to Arguments

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related

Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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